Claims

1. Method for forwarding signaling messages with an original device
   (102, 104, 112) in a first network (110), whereby the original
5 device supports a first signaling protocol,
   with a target device (106, 108, 116, 120) in a second network (114,
   118), whereby the target device supports a second signaling
   protocol, and
   with a third network (130) connecting the first and the second
10 network (110, 114, 118), and
   with a network access device (100) placed in the third network
   (130),
   - whereby a signaling message from the original device (102, 104,
     112) is transferred as tunneled over the third network (130) to
15   the network access device (100),
   - whereby it is determined by means of the network access device
     (100) on the basis of a target datum identifying the target
     device (106, 108, 116, 120) and contained in the signaling
     message whether the first and the second signaling protocols are
20   identical,
   - whereby in cases in which the first and the second signaling
     protocols are not identical, the signaling message is converted
     into the second signaling protocol and transferred as tunneled
     over the third network (130) to the target device (106, 108, 116,
25   120), and
   - whereby in cases in which the first and the second signaling
     protocols are identical, the signaling message is transferred
     unmodified over the third network (130) to the target device
     (106, 108, 116, 120) as tunneled.
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2. Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the network
   access device (100) carries out the protocol conversion itself.

3. Method according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, characterized in that the
35 network access device (100) performs functions of a
   telecommunication device, which preferably serves for the switching

of connections for the transfer of voice data in a private data
transfer network.

4. Method according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in
5   that the network access device (100) performs network access
functions for central devices of at least two local data transfer
networks (110, 114), whereby the central devices in each case
perform services for a multitude of terminal device of a data
transfer network, or
10 in that the network access device (100) performs a network access
function for terminal devices (152, 154) of at least one local data
transfer network (154), and/or
in that the data transfer network functions according to the
internet protocol or according to a protocol built upon it.
15

5. Method according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in
that a signaling protocol is a signaling protocol of the H.323
protocol family or a signaling protocol built on one such signaling
protocol, and/or
20 in that a signaling protocol is the SIP protocol or a protocol built
on it, and/or
in that a signaling protocol is a signaling protocol for the
signaling between telecommunication devices, preferably the protocol
QSIG or a protocol built upon it, in particular a proprietary
25 signaling protocol.

6. Method according to one of the preceding claims, characterized by
the steps:
- Reading (184) of the target datum with an access function, which
30   reads target data of various signaling protocols,
- Determination of the first signaling protocol of the received
    signaling message,
- Determination of the second signaling protocol required by the
    target device that is related to or specified by means of the
35   target datum,
- Comparison of the first signaling protocol with the second
    signaling protocol,

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- Making the decision regarding the conversion or the forwarding of
  the signaling message without conversion, depending on the result
  of the comparison.

5   7. Method according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in
    that no protocol conversion is required for signaling protocols of
    the same protocol family.

    8. Method according to one of the preceding claims, characterized by
10 the steps:
    - Storage of the received signaling message in a storage device
      (30),
    - Decision for or against a protocol conversion after the storage,
    - After the decision, conversion of the stored signaling message or
15   forwarding of the stored signaling message without protocol
      conversion.

    9. Method according to one of the foregoing claims, characterized in
    that the signaling messages relate to a signaling for the transfer
20 of voice data, in particular operating data packets, and/or
    in that the signaling messages relate to the performance of
    additional service features for the transfer of voice data.

    10. Program with an instruction sequence, in the execution of which
25 by a processor a method according to one of the preceding claims is
    carried out.

    11. Network access device (100) for forwarding signaling messages
    according to a method according to one of the Claims 1 to 9,

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    12. Network access device (100) according to Claim 11, characterized
    by a protocol conversion device, which, based on a signaling message
    according to a first signaling protocol, produces a signaling
    message with the same control characteristics according to a second
35 signaling protocol.